

**Wisconsin**

# Department of Natural Resources

# NEWS

November 14, 2002

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### **2002 gun deer season opens Nov. 23**

MADISON – With the opening day of the traditional nine-day gun deer hunting season in Wisconsin rapidly approaching, the state's top wildlife official says preparations for the most intensive wildlife health testing effort in the history are "moving at the speed of a high-velocity rifle round."

Tom Hauge, director of wildlife management for Department of Natural Resources, says the state will be ready when the regular deer season opens half an hour before sunrise on Saturday, Nov. 23 to undertake the task of sampling up to 50,000 deer as part of an effort to determine where chronic wasting disease is present in the state.

"But the real success of this effort," he adds, "will depend on hunters bringing in their deer."

Wildlife staff and hundreds of other DNR volunteers have signed up to work at registration and sample collection stations and processing centers until the state has collected enough samples, he says.

(more)



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“I’ve voiced the number ‘50,000’ over and over the past three months,” Hauge says. “It’s easy to say but when I sit down and think about what it’s going to take to collect and test that many CWD samples, my blood runs a little cold.

“While we’ll use the results of this surveillance to map out our future CWD strategy, the real payoff is for Wisconsin citizens because when it’s over we’ll know exactly where CWD is and where it isn’t in the state.”

After discovery of CWD west of Madison, the state CWD response team formulated a bold plan to test more Wisconsin deer in one year than have been tested in all of North America in any single year. The testing will take place in at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Madison, one of a small number of newly certified CWD testing laboratories in the county.

“If we are successful in our plan to sample 500 deer from every county, and that sample is relatively evenly spread over the county, we’ll be able to tell with a very high level of accuracy, whether or not CWD exists in a county,” Hauge said. “The payoff for all hunters is that they will know if the deer they’ve brought home had any chance of being exposed to the disease.”

“Wisconsin hunters can participate in this effort at no cost beyond transporting their deer to one of hundreds of CWD sample collection stations across the state on opening weekend,” says Hauge. “The 50,000 tests are on us, there’s no charge to the hunter. That’s the best price on a “gold standard” test I’ve heard of anywhere.”

It’s easy for a hunter to help out.

- After registering a deer, bring it to a collection station. Roughly one-half of the state’s registration stations will also be collection stations. For the other half, the drive to a collection station shouldn’t be too long.
- After the deer is registered, the hunter will be asked for some additional information on the kill, the animal’s head will be removed and bagged for testing, and the hunter will be given a slip with a bar code number identifying their deer.
- Beginning Nov. 15, the DNR Web site will post weekly updates (on Friday) with available test results.

Hunters supplying deer to the testing effort will be able to look up the results of their deer’s test using the bar code number they were given at the collection station. Hunters without home Internet access might be able to use the computer at a local library or they could contact a DNR service center for help.

Ultimately, all hunters will receive a postcard with results. If a hunter’s deer tests positive for CWD, they will get a phone call.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Manwell - (608) 264-9248

# # #

**CWD Sample Collection Sites  
for Opening Weekend 2002 Gun Deer Season  
(Nov. 23 and 24)**

**NOTE: Locations may be subject to change. Also, stations may close when sufficient samples are collected. Most stations will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. unless listed otherwise.**

<b>DNR NORTHERN REGION</b>			
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>ASHLAND</b>	Mellen	DNR Office	620 W. Layman
<b>BARRON</b>	Cumberland	Gabby's Gas & Deli	1525 Elm St. (Hwy. 63)
	Cameron	Cranberry Creek Outfitters	305 South 1 <sup>st</sup> (Hwy. 8)
<b>BAYFIELD</b>	Barnes	DNR Office	Jct. Hwys. 27 & M
	Washburn	DNR Office	203 E. Bayfield
<b>BURNETT</b>	Danbury	Log Cabin Store	30217 Hwy. 35/77
	Siren	Big Mike's Sport Shop	6659 Hwy. 70
	Grantsburg	Crex Meadows DNR Wildlife Area	Hwy. D
<b>DOUGLAS</b>	Pattison	Pattison State Park	6294 S. Hwy. 35
	Brule	DNR Office	6350 S. Ranger Road
	Gordon	DNR Office	Co Hwy. Y
<b>FLORENCE</b>	Florence	Florence Resource Center	HC1
	Long Lake	U.S. Forest Service Station	Elm St.
<b>FOREST</b>	Armstrong Creek	Komp Foods Inc.	Hwy. 8
<b>IRON</b>	Mercer	DNR Office	Hwy. 51 North
<b>LANGLADE</b>	Antigo	Antigo Service Center	223 E. Steinfest Road
	Elcho	Elcho Fire Dept.	Hwy. K
<b>LINCOLN</b>	Merrill	Merrill Ranger Station	1110 E. 10 <sup>th</sup> St.
	Tomahawk	LeMay Forestry Center	518 W. Somo
<b>ONEIDA</b>	Rhineland	DNR Service Center	107 Sutliff Ave.
	Hazelnut	Hazelnut ICO	Hwy. 51
<b>POLK</b>	Milltown	B&K Sports	422 Main St.
	Amery	Gen's Bait & Sport Shop	859 State Hwy. 46
<b>PRICE</b>	Park Falls	Bridge Bait & Tackle	1414 4 <sup>th</sup> St.
	Phillips	Ball Amoco.	165 S. Lake Ave
	Catawba	Catawba Farm Supply	Hwy. 8
<b>RUSK</b>	Bruce	Express Mart	533 N. Main
	Glen Flora	Edming Oil	W4278 Hwy. 8 & Lawrence St.
<b>SAWYER</b>	Hayward	Super Sports	W16096 Hwy. 63 S.
	Winter	Thran's Fin & Feather	W6635 Hwy. 70
<b>TAYLOR</b>	Jump River	Skabroud's Store	Maple St. & Hwy. 73
	Rib Lake	Lena's Last Chance	832 McComb Ave.
	Medford	Strama's Union 76	884 W. Broadway Ave.
<b>VILAS</b>	Eagle River	Eagle River Ranger Station	1861 Hwy. 45 N.
	Manitowish Waters	Dietz's Phillips 66	160 Hwy. W
<b>WASHBURN</b>	Spooner	DNR Service Center	810 W. Maple St.
	Birchwood	Ed's Pit Stop	701 E Hwy. 48
<b>DNR NORTHEAST REGION</b>			
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>BROWN</b>	Greenleaf	Rocky Top Tavern	Hwy. Z, East of Hwy. 32/57
	Green Bay	Lineville Travel Mart	1575 Lineville Road (Hwy. M)
<b>CALUMET</b>	Kiel	Kiel HS Athletic Fields	1/2 mile north of Mike's Bait & Gun, 1148 6 <sup>th</sup> St.
	New Holstein	Redwood Bar	N2698 Hwy. 57
<b>DOOR</b>	Brussels	Rouer's Grand Slam	9710 School Road
	Egg Harbor	Mueller's Mini Mart	7792 Hwy. 42
	Sturgeon Bay	The S-Stop	922 S. Duluth Ave. (Hwy. S)
<b>FOND DU LAC</b>	Dundee	Din's MiniMart	Downtown Dundee
	Ripon	Holiday Food and Sport	105 E. Main St.

<b>DNR NORTHEAST REGION (cont.)</b>			
<b>GREEN LAKE</b>	Markesan	Cenex Convenience Store	544 N. Margaret St.
	Princeton	Fox River Travel Plaza	811 Green Lake Road (Hwy. 23)
<b>KEWAUNEE</b>	Algoma	Wiegand Amoco	616 4th St.
	Luxemburg	Lee's Sports	1513 Main
<b>MANITOWOC</b>	Manitowoc	Larry's Shell	1701 S. 41 <sup>st</sup> St.
	Maribel	Greenwood's	14812 Hwy. R
	Two Rivers	Mobil 310 Mart	1108 N. Main St.
<b>MARINETTE</b>	Athelstane	Red Pine Amoco	Hwy. C and Parkway Road
	Crivitz	T&T Fermanich Mobil	Hwy. 141 and Hwy. W
	Pembine	Russ' Garage	Hwy. 141 and Hwy. 8
	Wausaukee	Amoco Station	Hwy. 141 (in town)
<b>MARQUETTE</b>	Briggsville	Pheasant Inn (Sunday only)	W8650 Hwy. 23
	Montello	DNR Ranger Station	363 Church St. (Hwy. 22)
	Westfield	Pioneer Mini Store	244 N. Pioneer Road
<b>OCONTO</b>	Abrams	Hi-Way Fuel	2857 Sot Road, Hwy.41/141 West frontage Road of Hwy. D
	Oconto Falls	Lathrop's Hometown Station	7818 Hwy. 22 West.
	Townsend	Townsend Shell	17757 State Highway 32
<b>OUTAGAMIE</b>	Leeman	Pierre's Store	N9302 Hwy. 187
	Seymour	East side of Main Street	across from Seymour Hardware at 119 N. Main St.
	Shiocton	Colwitz's Convenience Store	W7832 Hwy. 54
<b>SHAWANO</b>	Bowler	Bowler Foodland	E. Railroad St.
	Shawano	Qualheim's True Value	1345 E. Green Bay St.
	Tigerton	Fairview Motel	N4449 Hwy. 45
<b>WAUPACA</b>	Iola	J.R.'s Sport Shop	195 E. State St.
	Marion	Municipal Parking lot south of Fish Tales	301 N. Main
	Waupaca	Waupaca Truck Stop	1222 W. Fulton
<b>WAUSHARA</b>	Wautoma	DNR Shop (old ranger station)	N2130 Hwy.22 South
	Wild Rose	Mr. Ed's at W6943 Hwy. GH	
<b>WINNEBAGO</b>	Neenah	Ridgeway One Stop	8510 Hwy.45 at Hwy. 45 and Hwy. 150
	Omro	Omro Store	163 E. Main St.
	Pickett	Pickett Co-op	6644 Hwy. 44
<b>DNR WEST CENTRAL REGION</b>			
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>ADAMS</b>	Arkdale	Bennett's Meats	1925 Cypress Ave.
	Friendship	DNR Ranger Station	532 North Main
	Nekoosa (Town of Rome)	Pritzl's	State 13 and CH D
	Wisconsin Dells	The Corner Pump	3303 STH 13
<b>BUFFALO</b>	Alma	Henderson's Silver Moon	S1582 Hwy. 35
	Fountain City	Merrick State Park	S2965 St. Road 35
	Mondovi	Buffalo Co. Hwy. Dept.	360 S. Eau Claire St.
	Waumadee	Waumadee Country Store	S2017 Hwy. U
<b>CHIPPEWA</b>	Bloomer	Kwik Trip	STH 40
	Cadott	Rustic Lanes	109 W. Chippewa St.
	Holcombe	Holcombe Town Shop	276 <sup>th</sup> St.
<b>CLARK</b>	Greenwood	Kwik Trip	206 S. Main
	Neillsville	Neillsville Bread & Butter	110 E. Division
	Owen	O-W Sports & Liquor	107 Central Ave.
<b>CRAWFORD</b>	Ferryville	Ken's Bargain Corner	Hwys. 171 & 35
	Prairie du Chien	Eunice's Liquor & Cheese	Hwy. 18 S.
	Seneca	Greener's Corner	Hwy. 27 & Taylor Ridge Road
<b>DUNN</b>	Menomonie	DNR Field Station	Hwy. 29 West.
	Ridgeland	Cenex	STH 25

<b>DNR WEST CENTRAL REGION (cont.)</b>			
<b>EAU CLAIRE</b>	Augusta	DNR Ranger Station	Ted Anderson Drive
	Eau Claire	DNR Service Center	1300 W. Clairemont Ave.
<b>JACKSON</b>	Alma Center	Alma Center Locker	120 N. Church St.
	Black River Falls	DNR Service Center	910 Hwy. 54 E.
	North Bend	North Bend Processing	N587 N. Bend Dr.
<b>JUNEAU</b>	Necedah	Buckhorn State Park	W8450 Buckhorn Park Ave.
	Necedah	DNR Ranger Station	400 Birch St.
	New Lisbon	Angler Basics	635 Hog Island Road
<b>LA CROSSE</b>	Middle Ridge	The Likelee Spot	W797 St. Road 33
	Mid-Way	Kerry's Korner Bar	N5753 Hwy. OT
	West Salem	Karl's Sport Shop	W3449 Hwy. 16
<b>MARATHON</b>	Athens	Schaetzl Oil	Corner of Hwys. 97 and M
	Bevent	Family Tradition Bar	6484 Hwy. 153
	Mead DNR Wildlife Area	Mead Headquarters	S2148 Hwy. S
	Wausau	Sunset Country Store	10405 Hwy. Z
<b>MONROE</b>	Sparta	Don and Vi's	604 E. Wisconsin St.
	Tomah	DNR Ranger Station	310 N. Superior Ave.
	Warrens	Line Bar	N2529 Co. Road O
<b>PEPIN</b>	Durand	Bauer Built	3 <sup>rd</sup> and Prospect
<b>PIERCE</b>	Ellsworth	Super America	176 Main St.
	Elmwood	Sandbar Too	121 N. Main St.
<b>PORTAGE</b>	Amherst	Tomorrow Valley Coop.	116 N. Main St.
	Plover	Super 39 Shell	5339 Harding Ave. (Hwys. 54 & 51)
<b>ST. CROIX</b>	Baldwin	DNR Shop Bldg. (Sun. only)	Hwy. 63 and Spruce St.
	Deer Park	Conoco Auto Stop	Jct. of Hwys. 63,64 & 46, S. of Deer Park
	Hudson	Burkhardt Coop. (Sat. only)	1088 Hwy. A
<b>TREMPEALEAU</b>	Arcadia	Maloney's Baloney	Hwy. A
	Galesville	Express Mart	16894 S. Main
	Pigeon Falls	Falls Meat Service	13212 Main St.
	Strum	Blade Millworks	419 Maple St.
<b>VERNON</b>	Coon Valley	Rustic Valley Saloon	Hwy. 14 E.
	Hillsboro	Al's Citgo	902 Water Ave.
	Ontario	Riverside Bar & Grill	318 Main
	Viroqua	Delap Quik Stop	726 N. Main
<b>WOOD</b>	Sandhill	Sandhill Headquarters	Hwy. X
	Wisconsin Rapids	DNR Service Center	473 Griffith Ave.
<b>DNR SOUTH CENTRAL REGION</b>			
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>COLUMBIA</b>	Briggsville	Pheasant Inn (Nov 24 only)	N415 Hwy. A
	Cambria	The Dump Bar (Nov 24 only)	105 W. Edgewater St.
	Fall River	Fall River Citgo (Nov 23 only)	722 S. Main St.
	Lodi	Fitty's Bar and Grill (Nov 23 only)	N1434 Fair St.
	Pardeeville	Ledlow's Country Store (Nov 23)	W5595 Hwy. CM
	Portage	Sharpshooter's Bar	2520 W. Wisconsin St.
	Poynette	Poynette BP Station (Nov 24)	Hwy. 51
	Rio	Johnson's Sausage Shoppe (Nov 24 only)	425 Lowville Road
	Wisconsin Dells	Interstate AMOCO/BP	650 Frontage Road South
	Wyocena	Wyocena Bar (Nov 23 only)	110 S.
<b>DANE</b>	Black Earth	Norslein's Wood Works	4738 Hwy.78
	McFarland	BJ's Roadside Tavern	2515 Hwy. 51
	Marshall	Spirits Etc.	510 Plaza Dr.
	Oregon	J L Richards	668 Janesville St.
	Waunakee	Barb's Taxidermy	201 S. Klein Dr.

<b>DNR SOUTH CENTRAL REGION (cont.)</b>			
<b>DODGE</b>	Juneau	Pernat-Haase Meats	N4202 Hwy. M
	Rubicon	Marty's Custom Cutting	N4109 Hwy. P
<b>GRANT</b>	Boscobel	DNR Wilson Nursery	5350 Hwy. 133 East
	Fennimore	City Property on LaFollette St. behind Ray-O-Vac	north of Hwy. 18
	Platteville	Jeff's Mini-Mart	820 Mason St (Hwy. 81 West)
<b>GREEN</b>	New Glarus	Hoesley's Meats	219 Industrial Drive
	Albany	E Locker	N6833 Hwy. E
	Juda	Rackow Family Sausage	N1943 Schindler Road
	Jordan Center (MONROE)	Junction House	N3696 State Hwy. 81
<b>IOWA</b>	Arena	Heck's Farm Market	7266 Hwy. 14
	Avoca	Avoca Easy Stop	401 E. Main St.
	Barneveld	Eagle Mart Stop-and-GO	8029 Hwy. 151 (Hwy. 18/151)
	Dodgeville	Governor Dodge State Park	4175 State Hwy. 23 North
	Highland	Palan's Outpost	1358 Hwy. BH
	Hollandal	Sports Ridge Lanes (Bowling Alley)	1255 Road F
	Mineral Point	Carl's Five Point Cheese & Liquor	319 S. Commerce St.
<b>JEFFERSON</b>	Jefferson	River's Edge Farm	843 S. Whitwater
	Johnson Creek	Pernat Premium Meats	312 Milwaukee St.
	Lake Mills	DNR Office	188 Sandy Beach Road
	Sullivan	Witt's Inn	165 Main St.
	Watertown	Detjen's Country Cutting	109 Emerald St.
<b>LAFAYETTE</b>	South Wayne	Holverson's Meat Processing	103 Center St.
	Darlington	Darlington Mini-Mart	STH 23S-81W
	Fayette	DNR Yellowstone Wildlife Area Shop Bldg.	8874 Hwy. G
<b>RICHLAND</b>	Richland Center	Walsh's Hardware	1525 Bohman Dr.
	Rockbridge	Natural Bridge Store	17520 Hwy. 80
<b>ROCK</b>	Afton/Beloit	Friendly Village Tavern	S5621 Hwy. D
	Beloit	Jans K Market	11744 S Hwy. K
	Clinton	Boxcar Pub	108 Allen St.
	Edgerton	Fire Department (Sat. only)	621 N. Main St.
	Evansville	Ringhand Meats	603 E. Main St.
	Milton	The Liquor Cabinet (Sun. only)	721 Janesville St.
<b>SAUK</b>	Baraboo	Viking Express II	818 8th St.
	LaValle	Village Pump	Main St.
	Reedsburg	Viking Express I	1375 E. Main St.
	Spring Green	Mr. & Mrs. T's	E5016 Hwy. 14
	Sauk City	Ace Hardware	500 Water St.
<b>DNR SOUTHEAST REGION</b>			
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>KENOSHA</b>	Paddock Lake	Paddock Lake Sporting Goods (Sat. & Sun. only, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)	23522 75 <sup>th</sup> . St.
<b>OZAUKEE</b>	Saukville	Saukville Meats	501 E. Green Bay Ave.
<b>RACINE</b>	Burlington	Seno Woodland Education Center (1- 4 p.m. only)	3606 Dyer Lake Road (Hwy. P)
	Sturtevant	DNR Service Center	9531 Rayne Road
	Wind Lake	Gundy's Sport (Sat. & Sun. only, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)	7957 W Wind Lake Road
<b>SHEBOYGAN</b>	Sheboygan	Miesfeld Meats (Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Mon. & Tues. 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.)	4811 Venture Ave.
	Plymouth	Plymouth Field Station	W5750 Wood Chuck Lane
	Cascade	Quality Cut Meats (Sat. & Sun. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon. & Tues. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.)	125-A Milwaukee St.
<b>WALWORTH</b>	East Troy	Hometown Sausage Kitchen	W1184 Hwy. L
	Delevan	4 Corners Inn Bar & Grill (Sat. & Sun. only, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.)	W9002 Hwy. 11
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	Kewaskum	Kewaskum Frozen Foods	118 Forest Ave.
	Hartford	Gehrigs Meat Market	5618 Hwy. K
<b>WAUKESHA</b>	Waukesha	Deer Creek LLC (9 a.m. - 7 p.m.)	W235 N1264 Busse Road
	Monches	Monches Hilltop Inn	W302 N9510 Hwy. E

**[MEDIA ADVISORY-DNR information staff available to assist media at designated CWD sample collection sites]**

The 2002 gun deer hunting season opens Saturday, Nov. 23 and runs through Sunday, Dec. 1. This year during the gun deer hunt, the department is asking hunters to submit an unprecedented number of deer samples for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing.

Public affairs managers will be stationed at a number of CWD collection stations across the state from **9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23** to assist media who wish to cover the CWD sampling effort. Public affairs managers will be available to greet news media, do background briefings, arrange interviews, and escort news media in the sample collection station for "close-up" video and photo opportunities.

Please be advised that the first obligation of CWD collection station managers is the safety of staff and the smooth operation of the station. Media who visit collection sites not staffed by a public affairs manager will have to wait for any interviews if the station is busy and may be limited to shooting background footage. For the protection of staff and news media, a safe perimeter **beyond which reporters or on-lookers cannot pass for their own safety** will be established around the area where heads are removed for samples.

**The following CWD Collection Stations will be staffed by public affairs managers Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. News media interested in visiting a Collection Station are urged to visit one of the following sites:**

**Green Bay** – DNR Northeast Region headquarters, 125 N. Military Ave.

Tom Turner, (920) 492-5822 (o); (920) 639-5641 (cell)

**Saukville (Ozaukee Co.)** – Saukville Meats, 501 E. Green Bay Avenue

Kathleen Wolski, (414) 263-8516 (o); (414) 303-0102 (cell)

**Baldwin** – DNR Service Center Shop Bldg., Hwy. 63

Michael Skwarok - (608) 267-7622 (o); (608) 279-4765 (cell)

**West Salem (La Crosse area)** – Karl's Sport Shop, W3449 Hwy. 16

Greg Swanson - (608) 264-6024 (o); (608) 345-6024 (cell)

**Barneveld** – Eagle Mart Stop-N-Go, 8029 STH 151

Greg Matthews - (608) 275-3317 (o); (608) 444-6551 (cell)

**Black Earth** – Norslein's Wood Works, 4738 STH 78

Bob Manwell - (608) 264-9248 (o); (608) 575-6709 (cell)

**Black River Falls** – DNR Service Center, 910 Hwy. 54E,

Dave Weitz - (715) 839-3715 (o); (866) 445-5394 (pager)

**Eau Claire** - DNR Service Center, 1300 W. Clairemont Ave.,

Bruce Neeb, (608) 839-3713 (o);

**Rhineland** - DNR North Central Region office, 107 Sutliff Ave.

Jim Bishop - (715) 635- 4242 (o); (715) 645-0034 (cell)

**Wausau** - Mead Wildlife Area Headquarters, S2148 Co. Hwy. S, Milladore

Jennifer Raback, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, (608) 742-7100-Ext. 18 (o); (715) 457-6771 (Mead Headquarters)

**General statewide information:** DNR staff will collect information daily about collection station activities during the nine-day gun deer hunt. Should any sites reach their collection goal and close, a news release will be issued. For statewide information contact Laurel Steffes - (608) 266-8109 (o); (608) 222-9738 (h) or Wendy Weisensel - (608) 266-7310.

**Five Regional Processing Centers have been established around the state in which skilled laboratory staff will extract brain stem samples. Because of the need to keep the center clean, the presence of blood and other substances, and for the safety of staff and the public, news media and the public will NOT be allowed to tour processing centers while in operation.** The DNR communications program has distributed photos and video of deer sample processing centers to the media. A reel of B-roll related to sampling was delivered to all TV stations in October. Newspapers can get photos by request or off the DNR Web site at <<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/>> – click on the CWD photos links on the home page. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Laurel Steffes, (608) 266-8109; (608) 222-9738 (h); Wendy Weisensel, (608) 266-7310]

# # #

## **Deer herd remains above population goal in much of state**

MADISON – Wisconsin's regular nine-day gun deer season opens statewide Saturday, Nov. 23 and runs through Sunday, Dec. 1. Wildlife officials say the white-tailed deer herd remains above established goals in much of the state. The statewide population is estimated at about 1.6 million deer.

Last year, hunters registered 298,266 deer during the regular nine-day season. Hunters took another 58,107 antlerless deer during special Zone T hunts in October and December of last year in designated Zone T deer management units.

### **Northeast Region Forecast**

#### **Tom Nigus, DNR Northeast Region wildlife biologist.**

This season we're coming off a winter when winter severity indexes were only in the single digits across northern Marinette and Oconto counties, some of the lowest recorded in recent memory. With the mild winter, antler growth should again be excellent, as we have seen for the past two to three years. All deer management units except units 45, 54A and 65A are well above prescribed management population goals, and we'll need a heavy antlerless kill to lower populations to management goal levels.

Expanded gun and archery hunting opportunities are also available in metro deer management unit 64M, as regulations have been standardized for all metro units in the state. The late opening date for the gun season, Nov. 23 this year vs. Nov. 17 in 2001, may impact buck activity somewhat, as the rut should be over by the opener this year.

### **Northern Region Forecast**

#### **Mike Zeckmeister, DNR Northern Region wildlife biologist**

Deer numbers and hunting opportunity should be excellent in the Northern Region in 2002. The winter was mild in all but the snow-belt units, and even there it was only moderate. In the far north, almost all deer management units were in Zone T status this fall, meaning they were overpopulated. This year, there will not be a December antlerless hunt as part of Zone T in northern units. The rest of our units are in conventional buck plus quota status. In all but a handful of units there will be bonus permits available.

This will be a late gun season. The later season increases the possibility of snow, which can be good for visibility or tracking, but can be a drawback if there is too much for mobility.

This will be the first hunt in the last 10-15 years without bait. We expect that deer will be better distributed, according to natural food availability. Hunters will need to scout for natural foods and natural travel routes. This year there are new, stringent laws prohibiting baiting and feeding. Hunters should be aware that breaking these laws carries a substantial fine."

(more)



## **South Central Region Forecast**

**Alan Crossley, DNR South Central Region wildlife biologist.**

The discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease in part of Unit 70A has had profound impacts on the deer season structure for most of the region. Only units 68B, 73D, 76A and parts of 54B, 70G, 71, 73B, and 77A will experience the traditional 9-day deer hunt. The balance of the region will experience greatly expanded hunting opportunity as we try to eradicate this disease.

Hunters should pay close attention to the season structure and boundaries in the CWD Intensive Harvest Zone and the CWD Management Zone. Units 54B, 70G, 71, 73B, and 77A are split with new boundaries identifying that part of the unit in the CWD Management Zone. The season structure and regulations in both zones are quite different from anything we have had in the past. This is an extremely challenging time for everyone involved in trying to stop CWD in Wisconsin. Now, more than ever before, we need a strong partnership between landowners and hunters in trying to stop CWD in its tracks here in Wisconsin. We realize that not everyone is convinced our very aggressive approach is the way to combat this disease. But we want to be able to look back in five years and say we tried everything we could to stop the disease here in Wisconsin. We do believe we can be successful, but our success absolutely depends on landowners and hunters working together to harvest deer in very large numbers in this area this fall.

## **Southeast Region Forecast**

**Tami Ryan, DNR Southeast Region wildlife biologist**

Deer populations are highly variable in this part of the state due to the variety of habitat conditions and hunting pressure. The anticipated deer harvest within the region stands a good chance of being slightly higher than the past year due to a very mild winter, a modest increase in the deer population and increased bonus permit numbers. Reports from the field indicate an increased number of yearling deer and fawns over much of the region.

Deer hunters are reminded that the boundary line for unit 69 changed in 2001 and now includes parts of Manitowoc, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Dodge, and especially Sheboygan, Washington, and Ozaukee County. Deer numbers in this unit should be similar to last year.

Boundary changes in 2001 also affected unit 77M, which now includes parts of Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha, Milwaukee Racine and Kenosha Counties. The more liberal season in Unit 77 M requires that archers and small game hunters wear blaze orange clothing during the Nov. 23 - Dec. 1 gun deer season and the special Dec. 2 - 11 metro area deer gun and muzzleloader hunts. Archers are also reminded of the special extended season and the January 31 closing for unit 77 M.

(more)

Deer populations in units 68B, 77 B and 77C are slightly higher than last year and there are plenty of bonus permits available. These units are primarily private land and landowner permission to hunt is necessary.

Deer hunting in Unit 77D (Loew Lake Unit) is restricted to archers and up to 40 muzzle loader deer hunters who receive a unit 77D hunter's choice permit. Zone T permits are not valid this year on the Loew Lake Unit for archery or muzzleloader deer hunting. Check with the Pike Lake DNR office for local rules, maps and restrictions (262) 670-3400.

Whether you harvest a deer this season or not, hunting is still a great way to get out into nature and enjoy all the resources our beautiful State has to offer. Good luck and good hunting.

### **West Central Region Forecast**

**Robert Michelson, DNR West Central Region regional wildlife biologist and Mike Gappa, DNR wildlife biologist**

Thanks to an extremely mild winter and excellent fawn recruitment, deer will be plentiful in the West Central region this year and all of the region's 33 deer management units are at or above goals. There are plenty of antlerless permits available to assure that the opportunity is there for an adequate antlerless harvest.

As deer gun season approaches wildlife biologists throughout West Central Wisconsin are looking forward to a season offering hunters abundant opportunities to see and take deer.

Deer numbers are especially high in deer management units 72 (parts of Monroe and Vernon Counties) units 59D and 74A (parts of La Crosse and Vernon counties) and in unit 61 (parts of Buffalo, Trempealeau, Pepin and Pierce counties). Those counties, along with Unit 27, which includes part of Clark County, were the high-population units in the region that required a T-Zone hunt this year.

Because we have a late opener this year, I'm hoping that the weather will be more conducive to deer hunting than what's it been for the last couple of years," adds Gappa. "Bucks will be at the tail end of their rut, which may make them less vulnerable because of less natural movement. With the new baiting and feeding restrictions in place, it may be time, to take a look back to proven hunting techniques like deer drives, pre season scouting and learning what natural foods attract deer in the wild, such as acorns or dewberry.

The bottom line is that there are a lot of deer out there and for individuals who have done their homework, like contacting landowners for permission to hunt and some preseason scouting to find out deer movement, they should have plenty of opportunities to harvest deer."

# # #

## Fast Facts for the 2002 Deer Season

### Hunting Licenses

- Hunters must carry a valid hunting license on their person while engaged in hunting.
- Gun deer hunting licenses must be purchased before the start of gun deer season (by Nov. 22), except Wisconsin resident armed forces members on furlough or residents who have completed a hunter safety course and turn 12 years old during the season.
- It is illegal to allow someone else to use or *carry* your license or tag, or for you to use or *carry* some other person's license or tag.
- No person less than 12 years old may obtain a license.
- People born on or after Jan. 1, 1973 must present a hunter education certificate to purchase a license.
- Duplicate licenses are available at all license vendors by returning remaining parts of the lost license. Duplicate deer hunting licenses cost \$11.

### Season Dates

- The regular nine-day gun season runs from Saturday, Nov. 23 through Sunday, Dec. 1
- There are two special antlerless-only seasons in Zone T units this year. The early season was Oct. 24 through 27 and the late season will be Dec. 12 through 15.
- Muzzleloader season is Dec. 2 through 11
- Archery deer early season ran Sept. 14 through Nov. 17. The late archery season runs Dec. 2 through Jan 3.

### Hunting hours

- **Gun deer hunting hours** are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 20 minutes after sunset. There are six separate zones from east to west across Wisconsin, as well as a northern and southern area for calculating sunrise and sunset. Hunters should refer to the hunting times table of the 2002 Wisconsin Hunting Regulations.

### Key hunting rules

- **Blaze orange clothing required:** Hunters must wear outer clothing that is at least 50 percent blaze orange above the waist. A hat, if worn, must be also at least 50 percent blaze orange. Faded or stained blaze orange clothing is unsafe and may not meet law requirements. Camo-blaze is legal, but is not as visible as solid blaze clothing. 100 percent solid blaze orange is recommended.
- **Hunting is not allowed** during the 24-hour period immediately preceding the gun deer season
- **Adult supervision required:** Hunters ages 12 and 13 years old must be *accompanied* by a parent or guardian. Persons under the age of 12 may not possess a firearm. *Accompanied* means within sight and voice contact without the aid of any mechanical or electronic amplifying device other than a hearing aid.
- **Registration Deadline:** No later than 5 p.m. of the day after the close of the season. Deer must be registered in the deer management unit where killed or in an adjoining unit.
- **It is illegal to transport** another person's unregistered deer unless accompanied by the person issued the carcass tag. Once registered, anyone may transport the animal. Residents and nonresidents may transport legally possessed deer out of state once registered. An unregistered deer must be openly exposed in or on a vehicle and placed so that riders cannot handle the carcass tag.

**[EDITOR'S NOTE:** *This is the sixth in a series of columns by Tom Hauge, director of the DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management on questions about Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin deer.*]

## **What about gun season?**

**By Tom Hauge, director, DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management**

By the time you read this column, I would guess your bag is packed, the gun has been cleaned, and you and your hunting partners know where you're meeting to travel to your favorite spot for opening of Gun Deer Season.

The question I have been asked to answer is: "What last minute message do I want to send to Wisconsin hunters for the opener." My guess is your newspaper doesn't have enough ink for me to share my enthusiasm for deer hunting and my sincere request for state hunter conservationists to head to the woods and fields, have a good time, and help trim our overpopulated deer herd, but here goes...

The outdoors awaits you. Enjoy everything Wisconsin hunting has to offer – the crisp sunrise, watching the squirrels play around your stand, the turkey call in the distance, a fresh air nap, and the intense and thrilling wait as you hear a deer approach. Hunting has and always will be more than bagging a deer. I'm sure you'll swap stories and embellish old legends with hunting companions. It's time to pull the plug on our fast-paced world return to our conservation heritage.

If you are lucky and get an adult deer on opening weekend, please help us complete a statewide check of deer herd's health. Even if you are not worried about getting your deer tested for chronic wasting disease, please stop by one of our collection sites and donate the head. You will be contributing so much to research. You will be helping us screen for bovine tuberculosis, and get a definitive answer of where CWD does and does not occur in our state. YOUR help is important to the deer herd and you will help boost the confidence of other hunters that the deer in your county are healthy. I can't think of anything better that you could do to help preserve the hunting heritage we all cherish.

We've fine-tuned our deer sample collection plans based on what we learned from the October Zone T hunt. Mostly, we are working to make it easier for you to find a collection site. We've added more locations and will make use of so-called "mobile collection units" and where possible will move collection sites to registration centers. Remember, we need older deer – of either sex – that are not shot in the spine or head. We can arrange for you to keep your antlers.

I can't finish this last pre-season column without a safety reminder. Deer hunting is a safe activity, but it doesn't happen by accident. Please keep safety in mind at all times. If you are hunting alone, be sure someone knows where you are and when you will return. If you are hunting in a group, plan out where each of you will be and be aware of where your hunting partners are at all times. Wear blaze orange – even when you are dressing out your deer. And remember the four maxims of safe firearm handling: Treat every gun as if it was loaded. Always point your muzzle in a safe direction. Be certain of your target and what lies beyond it and keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.

This is an exciting time of the year and I wish you the best as you head to the woods. I'm looking forward to hearing your deer hunting stories from all over the state. This hunting season is unlike any other, and yet in so many ways it will be like all the others. Thank you for hunting this fall and your help in managing Wisconsin's deer herd. Go have fun and don't forget the toilet paper!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Hauge - (608) 2662193**

**Coyote hunting closed in northern zone to protect gray wolves**

PARK FALLS, Wis. – Hunters are reminded that coyote hunting is closed in the northern half of the state during the gun deer season in an effort to protect the state's population of gray wolves.

The closure extends across northern Wisconsin from east of Wausaukee near the Michigan border west to St. Croix Falls on the Minnesota border. The area closed to coyote hunting includes the state's Northern Deer Management Units and the Menominee Indian Reservation. The coyote hunting closure extends through the firearm deer season, Nov. 23 through Dec. 11.

The coyote hunting season has been closed in northern Wisconsin during the deer season since 1987 to protect the gray wolf, also called the timber wolf. Gray wolves are listed as threatened species under state law and endangered species under federal law.

The federal government is currently reviewing the status of wolves in the state and may reclassify them to threatened status later in 2002, according to Adrian Wydeven, a mammal ecologist who coordinates the Department of Natural Resources wolf recovery program.

"Although most timber wolves generally reside in the heavily forested portions of northern Wisconsin, some wolves occasionally travel outside these areas," Wydeven said. "And there are eight or nine wolf packs currently residing in the Central Forest areas between Black River Falls and Wisconsin Rapids, which is outside the area closed to coyote hunting."

A pack of wolves has also recently been established in western Oconto County, near Suring and the Menominee County border, an area which is also not closed to coyote hunting during the gun deer season. Areas closed to coyote hunting are north and west of a line from County A at the edge of Menominee County, to Highway 32, north to Highway 64, east to Highway 141, north to Highway 180, and east to the border with Michigan.

"Gray wolves are protected species throughout the state including areas where coyote hunting is allowed," Wydeven said. "Deer hunters outside of the closed zone who plan to shoot coyotes should be careful to identify their targets."

A person who shoots a wolf may be fined \$5,000 or more, plus face a prison sentence.

(more)

According to Wydeven, there are several ways to differentiate between wolves and coyotes: Wolves generally weigh between 50 and 100 pounds, while coyotes are about 20 to 40 pounds; wolves have long legs and large feet; shoulder height for wolves is usually 27 to 33 inches, while for coyotes are usually 20 to 22 inches.

Differentiating between color is more difficult, Wydeven said. Wolves and coyotes are similar in color, although wolves may sometimes be somewhat darker. The tail of wolves and coyotes hang either down or straight out, but never curled as in some dogs. Coyote ears are more pointed and larger than wolf ears. The muzzle of a wolf is large and blocky while coyotes have a more pointed or fox-like appearance. Footprints of wolves in the snow usually exceed 3.5 inches without the claws, while coyote' tracks are less than 2.6 inches.

“A good ruler for measuring tracks is a 30.06 or 270 bullet,” he said. “This bullet is about 3.2-inches long. If dog-like tracks are much larger, they are more likely from a wolf or large dog and if smaller are more likely a coyote or small dog.”

Along with timber wolves, hunters should also be aware of other protected species such as elk and moose. Both of these are large members of the deer family and protected by state law. Elk were introduced into northern Wisconsin in 1995 near Clam Lake, and currently about 100 occur in Ashland, Bayfield, and Sawyer Counties. A 5- to 6-month old elk calf is about the same size as a full grown white-tailed doe, but can be distinguished from deer by dark brown color, and yellow rump patch.

Moose wander into the state from northern Minnesota and Michigan and a small population exists in northern Wisconsin. Although moose look very different than white-tailed deer, the antler of a yearling bull looks somewhat similar, Wydeven said. Normally, its large, horse-size, dark body, very long legs, and large snout make it easy to identify a moose.

Even with very liberal antlerless deer seasons, hunters are reminded that not all large, brown four-legged animals are fair game. As with all hunting seasons, hunters must be absolutely sure of their target before they shoot. Mistakes in identification can be very costly.

Hunters are also asked to report observations of wolves, elk, moose and other rare mammals to the nearest DNR office. Information on the date, location, and description of these animals helps DNR biologists track the distribution of rare mammals in the state.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Adrian Wydeven (715) 762-4684 ext.107**

# # #

## **Hunters asked to be on lookout for deer with ear tags**

MADISON – Hunters have always played a major role in the conservation of Wisconsin's natural resources. Now, for the first time since conservation wardens began investigating the origin of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Wisconsin's wild and captive white-tailed deer herds, hunters are being asked to directly lend a hand in the ongoing investigation.

With thousands of men, women and youngsters donning their blaze orange in just a matter of days for the gun deer season opener, investigators with the Department of Natural Resources hope to harness that manpower in the search for the cause of CWD in Wisconsin.

Hunters are being asked to provide information to the department on any deer they see or shoot which have an ear tag. The tag could provide information on the origin of the deer or simply indicate that the deer was tagged as part of a scientific study.

Whatever the reason for the tag, shooting an ear-tagged deer in the wild is not illegal and wardens will not be collecting ear tags from hunters who might shoot one of these deer.

"We don't anticipate that there will be a flood of callers reporting that they've shot a tagged deer," said Warden Karl Brooks, who leads the DNR CWD Investigation Team. "But even a few leads could help shed some light on this case and protect the wild deer population from further exposure to CWD."

Hunters who shoot an ear-tagged deer this season should call the DNR poacher hotline at 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367) or dial #DNR (#367) on their US Cellular phone.

Investigators aren't just interested in deer shot this season – they're also interested in information from previous hunts.

"We know that there are hunters out there who keep those ear tags as a sort of trophy," Brooks said. "That's just fine. They can keep the tag, we just want the information from it."

Wardens need to know the color of the tag and what information is written or printed on it. If possible, information such as when the deer was shot and where it was shot –down to the section or township if possible – will also help the investigation.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karl Brooks, CWD Investigation Team Leader (608) 267-7455

# # #

### **Maximize safety; minimize injury during gun deer season**

MADISON – As hunters prepare for the annual ritual of Wisconsin’s traditional gun deer season, state hunting safety experts caution that some of the most serious hunting-related injuries happen when the most basic of safety rules are neglected or forgotten.

“There are plenty of things that a hunter should be thinking about when it comes to being safe, but the basics can be reduced to just a handful of points,” said Tim Lawhern, Department of Natural Resources hunter education administrator. “And those are the ones that can prevent nearly every firearm or hunting-related injury that occur in Wisconsin each year.”

Firearm injuries and fatalities can be greatly reduced by following the “TAB-K” formula, but there are two other easy rules that hunters should follow to further reduce the likelihood of injury or death.

The firearm basics are summarized by the easy-to-remember “TAB-K” formula. “T” means treat every firearm as if it is loaded. “A” means always point the muzzle of your firearm in a safe direction. “B” means to be certain of your target and what lies beyond and “K” means keep your finger off the trigger until you’re ready to shoot.

According to Lawhern, there are two other safety tips that are just as important as the TAB-K rule for firearms.

“Whenever hunting from an elevated device such as a treestand, always wear a fall restraint belt or harness and make sure to keep a short tether between you and your tree. That safety belt won’t do you any good if you’re left dangling several feet below your stand, unable to pull yourself up,” he said.

“And finally, be careful about choosing your hunting partners because your life may depend on it. About half of all hunting-related firearm injuries happen at the hands of someone in your own hunting party, so make sure that you’re hunting with people who hunt safely,” Lawhern said.

The DNR does not keep statistics on tree stand injuries but safety experts know that far too many people suffer injuries each year falling from an elevated hunting device. In addition to wearing a safety belt or harness, Lawhern recommends inspecting your tree stand before the season opener. Fix anything that needs fixing or replace the stand if it’s in bad shape. Hunters should also carry a haul line with them to haul their unloaded firearm up into their treestand or safely lower it when they’re ready to leave.

The trend of hunting-related injuries is declining in Wisconsin, but hunters still have improvements to make before the state ever has an injury-free season. There were 17 hunting-related firearm injuries reported during 2001 gun deer season. Of those, five people were killed. One additional firearm fatality occurred during the muzzleloader season, in December.

“While chronic wasting disease has many hunters concerned this year, the most important hunting issue should always be safety,” Lawhern said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Lawhern (608) 266-1317

# # #



## **Avoid trespass on private land**

### ***Know the law, secure permission before season opens***

MADISON – Hunters who want to hunt on private lands need to make sure they've asked and received permission from the owner if they haven't done so already, and should make sure they understand the trespass law, hunter education officials advise.

It is trespass for a person to enter or remain on land that's fenced, cultivated, undeveloped or occupied by a barn or other agricultural structure, regardless of whether the land is posted with "no trespassing signs."

"Landowners are not required to post their property, so the responsibility is placed on the hunter," says Tim Lawhern, Department of Natural Resources hunter education administrator. "The bottom line for a hunter is, either have permission to hunt on the land you're hunting on or don't hunt there. It's also your responsibility to know where you are so you don't wander onto private land where you don't have permission to hunt."

Before the gun deer season opens Nov. 23, hunters need to secure permission from private property owners whose land they want to hunt on, Lawhern. That's the courteous thing to do, the respectful thing to do. That leaves the best image of hunters and helps ensure the future of hunting."

The penalty for violating the trespass statute is a civil, not criminal, forfeiture with a maximum fine of \$1,000. A person who receives a trespass citation may choose not to contest the citation, in which case he or she forfeits the deposit of \$203.

Hunters still scrambling to find land to hunt might find that landowners are more willing to allow access to their property during the middle of the week instead of during the weekend opener, Lawhern says.

He also advises hunters who already have sought and received permission from a private landowner to get in touch with the landowner again, particularly if permission was granted months or even a year ago. "It's a good idea to reaffirm that with the landowner so there's no mistake about it," Lawhern says. "Sometimes, others are also granted permission and it's important from a safety standpoint for you to know how many other hunters might be there."

Hunters are also advised to follow these provisions of the trespass law:

- Written permission is not required but is a good idea to clarify the issue for individuals and law enforcement officers.
- A person may go up to a private residence to talk with a landowner or occupant or to ask for permission to enter private lands. However, a person must leave such premises if requested to do so by the owner or occupant.
- Hunters are responsible for knowing property boundaries and should obtain a plat book if they are unfamiliar with the land ownership where they hunt. Notice to prevent access is required only on private lands adjacent to public lands and private inholdings within public lands. Ignorance of property boundaries does not exempt a person from prosecution under the law.
- Taking a short-cut back to a road across private land, chasing dogs across private land, or following wounded game onto private land without first getting permission violates trespass law.
- A person may only enter private lands only for those activities for which permission was specifically granted. For example, a hunter who receives permission to deer hunt cannot return later to hunt small game unless the hunter also obtained permission for those specific activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Lawhern (608) 266-1317

# # #

## **Lands enrolled in wildlife damage and forest tax programs offer additional hunting opportunities**

*Hunters need to know the rules to avoid trespass and to be respectful of landowners.*

### **Wildlife Damage and Abatement Claim Program**

Farmers enrolled in this program to prevent damage to agricultural crops and to compensate them for their losses must allow public access to hunting on their land. Money to pay for claims and measures to stop the damage comes from a surcharge on hunting licenses and from sales of bonus antlerless deer permits.

- Hunters gain access to land enrolled in the program by calling a day before they want to hunt, or by showing up to the farmer's land and requesting access. Farmers whose lands are enrolled in the program as a result of deer damage are required to allow access for a minimum of two hunters on every 40 acres of deer habitat on their lands.
- Farmers are provided logbooks that the hunter must fill out so the farmer can track hunter visits. If the farmer decides to limit access to two hunters per 40 acres, if one hunter leaves and another hunter shows up requesting permission, the farmer must allow access. The farmer can deny access to another hunter only if two or more hunters (per every 40 acres of deer habitat) are actually present on the property at the time.
- Hunters can get a list of farmers enrolled in the damage and abatement claim program by calling the county damage specialist in the county they want to hunt. Such specialists usually are found in the county land conservation department.

### **Forest tax laws**

Early property tax policy in Wisconsin required woodland owners to pay higher taxes on their lands, a financial burden that led many landowners to overcut their timber to pay their tax obligation. The harm overcutting caused prompted state authorities to enact forest tax laws that promote timber growing by allowing lower tax rates on those lands.

About 27,000 landowners own more than 2.6 million acres enrolled in the two existing forest tax law programs: Forest Crop Law, and Managed Forest Law.

Lands under the Forest Crop Law are open to the public for hunting and fishing. Some lands under the Managed Forest Law are not open to hunting and fishing because the landowner can choose to enroll the land as open or closed to the public. Landowners who close their land to the public pay higher property taxes and are responsible for posting closed lands.

Hunters are not required to ask permission to go onto Forest Croplands or open Managed Forest Lands, but Carol Nielsen, the DNR forestry employee who directs the program, recommends that hunters contact the landowners prior to hunting on the property.

"It's not legally required, but it's good ethics to talk with the landowner before you go out," Nielsen says. "Let them know where you'll be hunting and when, and also find out who else will be hunting on their property."

"The key words are respect and safety – respect of the hunters to the landowners and the landowners to the hunters," Nielsen says.

(more)

All hunters hunting on Forest Croplands or open Managed Forest Lands should follow these courtesies.

- Do not litter or damage the property.
- If the landowner has identified access lanes, stay on the lanes and be sure to close gates. The landowner does not have to grant access to vehicles.
- A list of landowners enrolled under either tax law can be obtained from DNR but it takes two or three weeks to receive the names by mail, so people may not be able to receive the list in time for this year's gun deer season unless they are able to come in to DNR Central Office information center at 101 S. Webster St. The cost is 10 cents a page. Call DNR at (608) 266-2621 for a printout of the county you wish to hunt in. Or, use the order form on the DNR Web site:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/ftax/orderfrm.htm>.

May takes two to three weeks to receive them by mail.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FOREST LANDS CONTACT: Carol Nielsen (608) 266-8019;

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTACT: Laurie Fike (608) 267-7974

# # #

### **Gun-deer license must be purchased before season opens**

MADISON – Deer hunters have only about a week to buy a Wisconsin gun-deer hunting license before the traditional nine-day hunt begins Saturday, Nov. 23, and ends Sunday, Dec. 1. Gun deer hunting licenses may not be purchased in Wisconsin after the season begins.

Sales of all license types authorizing deer-hunting are down 19 percent compared to this time last year, but that may be because a few more hunters have taken a “wait-and-see” view of hunting this year for a variety of reasons, says Marilyn Davis, director of customer service and licensing for the Department of Natural Resources.

“Procrastination is tradition for about one-third of Wisconsin deer hunters when it comes to buying a gun deer license,” Davis said. “Over the last several years, we’ve seen license sales jump the last week prior to the season opener.”

In 2001, fully 31 percent of the year's gun deer licenses were sold in the week before the regular gun-deer season, with 60,366 licenses sold the day before the season started.

Davis recommends that would-be hunters buy a license now rather than wait any longer.

“Because even more people seem to be waiting until the last minute this year, lines could be longer at DNR service centers and at other places people go to buy licenses, such as hardware, sporting goods and outdoor gear stores,” she says. “So buy now and avoid the wait.”

Hunters can avoid lines altogether this year by buying a license over the Internet or with a toll-free call, but they may pay higher express delivery charges in order to get a license and backtag delivered in time for use during the season opener Nov. 23. Hunters who hunt after the opener have more time to get their license through regular mail.

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Davis said more Wisconsin residents are using the Internet to purchase their license, and Internet sales are popular with out-of-state residents in addition to the toll-free phone call option. The DNR Web site also provides Internet license buyers with valuable information about the deer season and answers questions about chronic wasting disease.

Resident gun deer licenses cost \$20 and nonresident licenses cost \$135. Patron licenses, which include gun-deer hunting licenses and 24 other recreational privileges, cost \$110 for residents and \$575 for nonresidents. Sports licenses, which include gun deer, fishing and small game licenses, cost \$43 for residents and \$240 for nonresidents.

Hunters automatically receive one free Zone T antlerless permit with each deer hunting license – gun and archery – that they purchase. Zone T tags may be used in any Deer Management Unit designated as a Zone T unit during any open deer hunting season to harvest an antlerless deer.

In addition, a regular gun carcass tag is good for a deer of either sex in any Zone T unit during the regular gun season. Hunters who wish to acquire more antlerless tags may purchase unit-specific Bonus Antlerless Permits at any license vendor. The bonus permits may be used during the regular season or the Zone T antlerless hunt that will be held Dec. 12 to 15 in those Zone T units south of Hwy. 8. The late Zone T hunt is not being held in the north to avoid any possible conflicts with snowmobilers and cross-country skiers. The cost for each bonus permit is \$12 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents.

Here's how and where hunters may buy gun deer licenses and additional bonus antlerless permits.

#### ***On-line sales***

Customers can access on-line license sales through DNR Web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us> under "Licenses, Permits & Registrations" or by clicking on the licenses button on the state's portal, <http://www.wisconsin.gov>.

While some license types such as fishing, small game, and turkey can even be printed at home for immediate use, deer hunting licenses and others that include a backtag, carcass tag or harvest report are not printable but will be mailed to the customer within seven days. Visa or MasterCard are accepted for payment and there is a \$3 convenience fee for this service.

#### ***Telephone sales***

People can buy licenses toll-free by dialing 1-877-945-4236. Again, Visa or MasterCard are accepted for payment and there is a \$3 convenience fee for this service.

#### ***Counter sales***

Wisconsin's automated license issuance system (ALIS) allows customers to purchase most hunting and fishing licenses at over 1,300 locations throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota. DNR service centers sell gun deer licenses using the same system.

Most customer service centers in south central Wisconsin are extending their hours next week. The Fitchburg, Dodgeville, Janesville and Poynette Service Centers will all remain open until 6 p.m. on Nov. 20, 21 and 22, and will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23 and Sunday, Nov. 24. Northern Wisconsin customer service centers at Spooner will be open until 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22, and the Antigo Service Center will be open until 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Marilyn Davis (608) 267-7799

# # #

## DNR and Whitetails Unlimited unveil Packers PSAs

MADISON – Green Bay Packers Quarterback Doug Pederson is taking his personal commitment to deer hunting to the Wisconsin airways in new public service announcements (PSA) now being distributed.

The PSAs were produced in a partnership of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Whitetails Unlimited, and Pederson, himself, who donated his time and talent.

“Wisconsin faces a critical hunting season this fall. Our best chance of stopping Chronic Wasting Disease is to trim the state’s near record 1.6 million deer herd. An overpopulated herd is at risk for disease and hunters are the best tool DNR has for managing deer. We are very grateful for Doug Pederson’s and Whitetails generous and enthusiastic support,” said DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell.

“Whitetails Unlimited is working very hard to get hunters out hunting this fall. The Packers and deer hunting are passions of nearly 700,000 Wisconsin deer hunters, and these ads will be popular. Doug Pederson’s love of hunting shows,” said Jeff Schinkten, president of Whitetails Unlimited, a national nonprofit conservation organization.

The ads, distributed to Wisconsin radio and television stations, stress hunter safety and the need to trim Wisconsin’s overpopulated deer herd to prevent disease spread (NOTE: Text follows).

Doug Pederson, a 10-year National Football League veteran, has six years of experience with the Green Bay Packers as quarterback. He is an avid outdoorsman and hunter and a life member of Whitetails Unlimited.

### **[Editor’s note: TV PSA text:**

#### **PSA #1**

If there’s one place I’d rather be than on this field (*shows Pederson on Lambeau Field*)... it’s out in the fields and woods of Wisconsin.

Deer hunting is an important part of my life, and I want to make sure it’s around for my kids.

But, we have too many deer and we need to trim the herd to keep it healthy. That’s your job, and mine. And don’t forget safety...

Know your target and what’s beyond. Treat every gun as if it were loaded, and point it in a safe direction.

The future of deer hunting is in our hands. So, get out and hunt.

#### **PSA#2**

There’s no doubt that green and gold are my favorite colors.

But, this time of year, I’m partial to this color too (*shows blaze orange hat*).

Deer hunting is an important part of my life, and I want to make sure it’s around for my kids, and yours.

There’s Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin, and we need to trim the herd to keep it from spreading. And that’s why I’ve been out bow hunting this year and why I’ll be out for gun season, too.

The future of deer hunting is in our hands. Get out and hunt.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurel Steffes, DNR, (608) 266-8109 or Pete Gerl, Executive Director, Whitetails Unlimited, (920) 743-6777

# # #

### **Whitetails Unlimited offers \$10,000 incentive for deer testing**

MADISON – Whitetails Unlimited, a national nonprofit conservation organization, has developed an incentive program to encourage hunters to assist Wisconsin in its ambitious program to test for chronic wasting disease throughout the state this deer season.

The organization, with headquarters in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., has set up a drawing for \$100 U.S. Series EE Savings Bonds, says Peter J. Gerl, the organization's executive director. The organization will give away 100 of the savings bonds.

While not every deer registration station will collect samples, and not every deer presented at a collection station will be accepted, those hunters whose deer are accepted at a collection station will have their names entered into the drawing.

"We are extremely grateful to Whitetails Unlimited for coming up with this idea of saying 'thank you' to hunters who go the extra mile and are willing to stand in another line in order to help with this surveillance effort. We couldn't get the job done without such strong supportive partnerships, and we hope Whitetails Unlimited's efforts will encourage hunters to bring their deer in to be sampled," said DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell.

The location of the CWD collection stations in each county are available at any deer registration stations, from Department of Natural Resources service centers, and on the DNR Web site.

The testing involves examining 500 deer from each county, but for the research to be fully successful it is important to have the samples be from different areas throughout each county.

"When the testing is done, we will know more about the health of the Wisconsin deer herd than any other herd in the U.S.," Gerl said. "It's important for the testing program to collect deer from every part of each county, and it's impossible to collect samples from every registration station. We're asking hunters to travel a little and bring their deer to the collection station in their county, and we're offering an incentive to help encourage that.

"We also hope that all the samples can be collected opening weekend," Gerl continued. "Collecting the samples is very labor intensive, and the DNR has incredible budget pressure in dealing with CWD. The less time it takes to properly collect the samples, the more money will be available for other work on CWD."

The actual drawing will take place upon completion of all special deer hunting seasons and winners will be notified by the end of February. Acceptance of hunters' deer head automatically enters them into the drawing. Only hunters whose deer are accepted for testing are eligible for the drawing. There is a possibility that an individual deer will not be accepted for collection, based on condition or geographic location. In addition, the following guidelines apply:

- No fawns are being accepted in the program.
- No deer shot in the head or upper neck is being accepted in the program.
- Based on timing there is the possibility that portions of a county have already met the quota and additional heads will not be required.

Whitetails Unlimited's mission is to support educational programs, habitat conservation and preservation of the hunting tradition. Visit their Web site at [www.whitetailsunlimited.com](http://www.whitetailsunlimited.com).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter J. Gerl, Whitetails Unlimited (920) 743-6777

# # #

### **Wisconsin is a partner in finding new CWD testing methodologies**

MADISON – A new chronic wasting disease test that has been validated and licensed for use in mule deer that yields more rapid results than the test currently in use may eventually become welcome news to Wisconsin deer hunters, state officials say.

The recent announcement that an enzyme linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA)-based test has been approved for mule deer is a sign that nationwide efforts to develop additional testing tools are starting to pay off, officials say. A similar announcement for a white-tailed deer test may come this winter and Wisconsin is helping make it possible.

“Improving CWD testing has been a top priority since day one” said Department of Natural Resources Secretary Darrell Bazzell. “We’ve come a long, long way since Feb 28 when we were informed that three samples collected in November 2001 were positive for CWD”.

“Eight months ago, we had no in-state ability to test for CWD,” said Dr. Robert Shull, director of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) in Madison. “In just a few months, we built a brand new state-of-the-art CWD testing facility at the WVDL that will process 30,000-plus CWD tests this year using the gold standard immunohistochemistry, or IHC, method.

“It’s quite possible that WVDL may run more CWD deer tests than any lab in the country this year. We’re always looking for better and more efficient techniques. For example, we are now able to put tissues from three different deer on each IHC slide maximizing our efficiency and considerably lowering the cost per deer.”

Wisconsin is also providing CWD-positive and negative white-tailed deer tissues to other labs to accelerate the for validation of ELISA-based tests. Validation of new test methodologies involves running a sufficient number of individual deer tissue samples with the new laboratory procedure and comparing the test results against the IHC finding for the same deer. If the new test procedure reliably identifies the positive and negative CWD deer it will probably be licensed for use.

“Since this summer, we’ve been collecting our tissue samples in a manner to run both the traditional and new CWD tests from all deer within the eradication zone,” said Dr. Julie Langenberg, DNR wildlife veterinarian. “We’ve shared tissues with both the USDA lab in Ames, Iowa and WVDL in hopes of speeding up the new test validation timeline.

“There is mounting evidence that testing lymphoid tissue may identify CWD-positive animals at an earlier stage of the disease than if we rely on brain stem tissue alone.” Langenberg said. “As a result, our samplers have collected both brain stem and lymphoid tissue from all deer killed in the eradication zone to speed up the nationwide validation efforts. We want a test that works best for our situation in Wisconsin. Wisconsin hunters are very successful and take a lot of deer. The testing system we need may not be the same as that used in other states.”

It is important to note that a new test might only be licensed for use with a specific type of deer tissue. The newly licensed mule deer ELISA test is currently valid only for use with brain stem tissue.

No matter what testing technology is used, most discussions of testing overlook the system needed to get the correct tissue from the deer in the field to the lab in a usable form. In both Colorado and Wisconsin, state natural resource agency staff do the work of extracting the tissues and getting them to a lab. Wisconsin will use nearly 1,200 WDNR employees and volunteers to collect and extract tissue samples from up to 40-50,000 deer this fall.

Results from Wisconsin’s fall CWD testing will be posted weekly on the DNR Web site at [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us) under “Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin,” beginning on Nov. 15.



Department of Natural Resources – CE/6  
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## Hunters, make your hunt safe and legal

Always ask permission to  
hunt on private lands and  
remember the formula for gun  
hunting safety: "TAB-K"

- T - treat every firearm as if  
it is loaded.
- A - always point the muzzle  
of your firearm in a safe  
direction.
- B - be certain of your target  
and what lies beyond and
- K - keep your finger off the  
trigger until you're ready to  
shoot.

